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and these same fruit bodies were found to retain their vitality when dried, kept *in vacuo*, and at a temperature of liquid air for three weeks.—J. M. C.

Seedling anatomy.—In continuing his investigations of the seedling anatomy of Sympetalae, LEE¹⁰ has published an account of the Compositae, having examined about 50 species, well distributed through the tribes. The general conclusions are as follows: all seedlings are either diarch or tetrarch; variations in vascular anatomy occur not only in nearly related species, but in different individuals of the same species, the inference being that seedling anatomy “is of no value in questions of affinity”; the evolution of the vascular structures of seedlings is probably not an extremely slow process; tetrarchy and diarchy have probably been “interchanged” several times during the evolution of angiosperms; physiological factors are probably not sufficient to account for all the structures found in seedlings.—J. M. C.

The origin of Ascomycetes.—In a paper which reviews all the available data, approximately 100 papers being cited, DODGE¹¹ discusses the relationships of the red algae and the Ascomycetes. It is a very useful summary of our knowledge of the reproductive structures of these two groups, as well as a clearly presented argument in favor of the view that the Ascomycetes are a monophyletic group and have been derived from the red algae. The reproductive structures of the two groups are compared in detail, and the interesting transitions shown by *Collema* and *Ascobolus* are described.—J. M. C.

Flora of Panama.—STANDLEY¹² has issued the first of a series of papers preliminary to a flora of Panama. The present paper contains descriptions of some 40 new species from tropical America, which are distributed among 18 genera belonging to the Cyperaceae, Leguminosae, Gentianaceae, and Rubiaceae. Two new generic names are proposed, namely *Nothophlebia* and *Geocardia* (*Geophila* D. Don, not Berg.) of the Rubiaceae, and the following genera have been revised: *Sommeria* (5), *Watsonamra* (11), and *Cobaea* (18).—J. M. GREENMAN.

Variation in *Oenothera ovata*.—Mrs. BRANDEGEE¹³ has discovered that this Californian species of *Oenothera* has a remarkable range of variation. Apparently it is a plexus of “elementary species” quite as numerous as have been found in *O. Lamarckiana* and *O. biennis*.—J. M. C.

¹⁰ LEE, E., Observations on the seedling anatomy of certain Sympetalae. II. Compositae. Ann. Botany 28:303-329. figs. 2. 1914.

¹¹ DODGE, B. O., The morphological relationships of the Florideae and the Ascomycetes. Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 41:157-202. figs. 13. 1914.

¹² STANDLEY, PAUL C., Studies of tropical American Phanerogams, no. 1. Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 17:427-458, pls. 24-31. 1914.

¹³ BRANDEGEE, KATHARINE L., Variation in *Oenothera ovata*. Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 6:41-50. pls. 8, 9. 1914.